

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/659,197

Examiner

Hung H. Lam

Applicant(s)

KIKUCHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/30/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2 and 6 (The claims are renumbered as 1-3, respectively).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


LIN YE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendments, filed on 10/30/07, have been entered and made of record. Claims 3-5 and 7-14 are canceled. Claims 1-2 and 6 are pending.

In review of Applicant's amendment the title, the objection to the specification is hereby withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-2 and 6 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding **claim 1**, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a lens apparatus mountable to a camera comprising:

a focus driver which drives a focus lens;

a **parallel communication terminal for performing communication with the camera by a parallel communication format;**

a **serial communication terminal for performing communication with the camera by a serial communication format;**

a **signal generating which generates a focus-driving signal for the focus driver based on a video signal output from the camera;**

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a first image input circuit into which the video signal is input from the camera through the parallel communication terminal;

a second image input circuit into which the video signal is input from the camera through the serial communication terminal;

a communication format determination circuit which determines the communication format with which the camera complies; and

a video signal selection circuit which is adapted to select the video signal input into the first and second image input circuits,

wherein, when the communication format determination circuit has determined that the camera complies with the serial communication format, the video signal selection circuit outputs the video signal, which has been input into the first image input circuit, to the signal generating circuit, and a signal other than the video signal is communicated through the serial communication terminal; and

wherein, when the communication format determination circuit has determined that the camera does not comply with the serial communication format or that the camera complies with the parallel communication format, the video signal selection circuit outputs the video signal, which has been input into the second image input circuit, to the signal generating circuit, and a signal other than the video signal is communicated through the parallel communication terminal.

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Regarding **claim 6**, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a lens apparatus mountable to a camera comprising:

**a lens apparatus according to claim 1; and
a camera to which the lens apparatus is mountable, and which sends a video signal an signal to the lens apparatus.**

Regarding **claim 2**, the claims is allowed as being dependent of claim 1.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a) Kanayama (US-6,753,918) discloses a camera that communicates with a detachable lens via parallel or serial methods.

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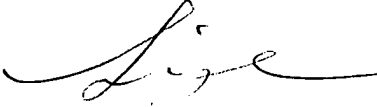
b) Katsuragawa (US-5,731,920) discloses a converting adapter for interchangeable lens assembly.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung H. Lam whose telephone number is 571-272-7367. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, LIN YE can be reached on 571-272-7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HL
01/06/08


LIN YE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER